

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY, 1PM
FRIEND'S MEETINGHOUSE, 6TH & HERR STS.,
HARRISBURG.

JANUARY MEETING?

Well, we attempted on two consecutive Saturdays to meet, but snow and ice gave us all a problem. Mary is back from her missionary ERA work in Florida. At our February meeting, we will focus primarily on the PAC and PRIDE '82. We hope to have a real strategy and goal-setting session focused on the remainder of 1982..

*****ELECTION '82*****

GUBERNATORIAL RACE IS ON!

James R. Lloyd, a Democrat from the Fifth Senatorial District in Philadelphia and a senator for less than three years, has declared his candidacy for the Governorship. The thirty-two year old father of two boys and owner of a sporting goods business will run even if not endorsed by the party. He is opposed to abortion except where it is life-threatening pregnancy or in cases of incest or rape.

Al Benedict, State Auditor General; Ed Rendell, Philadelphia District Attorney; Edward Zemprelli, Senate Minority Leader; Craig Lewis, Senator from Bucks County; and Pete Flaherty, former Pittsburgh Mayor have all backed out of the race.

U.S. Representative Allen Ertel, a Democrat from Montoursville, will decide by the February 16 filing date whether or not he will run.

Candidates have until March 9 to file petitions and until March 24 to withdraw petitions.

Governor Thornburg will not enter the race until after he submits his 1982 budget on February 9. The Republicans have already raised much of their three million dollar goal for the campaign. The Democratic treasury looks bleak and is a major stumbling block for securing a candidate.

Robert F. Casey, former State Treasurer, is rumored to be a candidate for Lt. Governor. Casey has already picked up nominating petitions.

(clip and mail to: PL/GSN, FEDERAL SQUARE STATION, PO BOX 822, Harrisburg, Penna. 17108-0822)

- () I am enclosing \$20 for a one year subscription to the Newsletter and membership.
() I am enclosing \$12 suggested hardship or student membership and the Newsletter.
() I would like to support the Network with a contribution.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Make check payable to PL/GSN-all information will be kept confidential)

U.S. SENATE RACE

Senator John Heinz has raised one million dollars in 1981 for his campaign. Eighty percent of the contributions have come from individuals, as opposed to special interest groups or PACs. Most of the donors were bankers, stockbrokers, oilmen, manufacturers, attorneys, and other professionals.

Allegheny County Commissioner Cyril Wecht announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, February 2. Wecht feels Heinz has failed to respond to the economic needs of Pennsylvanians.

MAKING PARTY SWITCH

State Representative Joseph M. Rocks, who is about to lose his House seat due to reapportionment, will leave the Republican Party and run for the Senate as a Democrat. He will challenge incumbent Phillip Price in the Fourth District. Rocks has been elected twice in the 199th House District.

GAY LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE

Richard Meritzer, a veteran Pittsburgh gay activist and community organizer, has announced that he will seek the Democratic nomination for state legislator in a newly created district. Meritzer will be seeking to unseat an incumbent whose district is drastically changed due to reapportionment. The new district has a large population of gays and Jews. Because of his past community work, Meritzer is expected to draw support from the total community.

CAPITOL HILL:

Abortion Control Act: Friend and Cunningham have been working with assistants from the Governor's Office in developing an Abortion Control Act that the Governor would not veto. The act may be attached again as an amendment to the Marital Rape Bill.

Abortion Aid Ruling: The Commonwealth will not ask the State Supreme Court to reconsider its decision upholding an injunction against cutoffs of Medicaid funds for abortions. The legislature voted in December, 1980 to prohibit the use of state money for medicaid abortions except in life-threatening pregnancies or cases involving rape or incest. In January 1981, the law was challenged by the Philadelphia based Women's Law Project which argued it violated the equal protection guarantees of the state constitution.

Congressional Reapportionment: The State House passed a measure for reapportionment authored by House State Government Chairman James Gallen, R-Berks, by a vote of 104-88. The Gallen plan would merge western Pennsylvania districts held by Democrats Austin Murphy of Washington County and Donald Bailey of Westmoreland County as well as the Philadelphia districts held by Joseph Smith and Thomas Foglietta.

The State Senate voted down three reapportionment plans on January 26, including the Gallen plan. The final vote rejected the House plan by 35-13; thus sending the issue to the conference committee. This committee is GOP dominated and the interests of the party will be considered.

On Thursday, February 4, the State Senate rejected still another plan. The Federal District Court in Pittsburgh considered a petition from a Washington County resident on Monday, February 8, which stated that the legislature had abdicated its responsibility in the face of the approaching date for the first filing of petitions by candidates on February 16. The Court ruled that it did not have jurisdiction in this type of case.

Roadside Rest Areas: The Penna. Bulletin of January 9 contained the following rulemaking: 443.2 Prohibited activities or actions; roadside rest area. The following specified activities or actions are prohibited in all roadside rest areas.

(15) Engaging in or soliciting any loud, boisterous, lewd or lascivious conduct, including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse, indecent contact, indecent exposure and open lewdness, as defined in 18, Pa C.S. 3101-5904.

HARRISBURG:

Program of Harrassment: During the month of January, twenty plus gay men were arrested in or around the bookstores on Market Street and Market Square. Members of MCC-Harrisburg and Dignity/Central PA appeared at a City Council

meeting and presented a written statement which was read into the minutes of the February 2nd Council Meeting. Since this was not a legislative session, no action could be taken, though several members of the council expressed surprise and concern. The Chairperson of the City Safety Committee has invited members of the gay community groups to appear at the February 11 meeting of that committee. PL/GSN and NOW have become involved and we will keep you posted of new events. The Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities is currently seeking an injunction against the police department.

PITTSBURGH:

Homosexual Rights Bill Shelved: A proposed Homosexual Rights Bill was shelved in Pittsburgh on January 18. The Bill, which would prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in employment and housing, was to have been sponsored by four council members. Minutes before the Bill was to be introduced, the sponsors withdrew their support, preventing the measure from reaching the floor. This Bill was unique because it did not depend on the Human Relations Commission for enforcement but would have relied on enforcement by the City Court through citations issued by Community Relations Officers of the City Police.

The shelving of the measure resulted when City Clerk, Mike Perry, sought to verify all of the four signatures contained on the Bill. What ensued appears to be a real last minute case of homophobia and the Bill was shelved. Some Council members felt that the group should go the State route since this is not a local problem.

Gay Cable TV: Pittsburgh Lesbian and Gay activists are organizing a Gay television show. Once organized, the show will use the local cable television facilities-Warne Cable. The group of eight organizers decided on a magazine format, not unlike "Evening Magazine." The group is writing a proposal for a 13-week series. They do not expect to begin taping before the end of February.

PHILADELPHIA:

New 182nd District: The jockeying for position for the Democratic Party nomination for state legislature in this new district, which includes center city Philadelphia wards 5 and 8, has begun. The former districts of Sam Rappaport and Norm Berson are being combined. Berson has announced his retirement, but Rappaport has announced he plans to run. On January 14, Ward 8 Committee members met and heard potential candidates. Rappaport received support from six members in a straw vote. Babette Josephs, a committeeperson, attorney, and feminist activist, received the largest number of votes with 15. Jeff Britton, President of Walt Whitman Democratic Club received the remaining two votes.

AROUND THE NATION

WASHINGTON D.C.:

Federal Legislation:

HR 1454-Omnibus Lesbian/Gay Civil Rights-

Weiss, Waxman, & 48 other sponsors.
In the House Education and Labor and Judiciary Committees. It was scheduled for hearings in January before the Employment Opportunity Committee.

S 1708-Lesbian/Gay Fair Employment

Sponsors: Tsongas, Packwood, & 5 others
In Senate Labor Committee, Labor and Human Resources Committee. No Planned Action.

HR 3524-Reform of Immigration Law on Ban of Gays

Sponsors: Julian, Dixon, Beilenson & 24 others
In House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law.
No Planned Action.

HR 3955-Family Protection Act

Sponsors: Smith, Jr; Crane, P; McDonald
Also: HR 311 Hansen and S 1378 Jenson, Laxalt
House Armed Services, Education and Labor, Judiciary, Ways and Means, and Senate Finance Committees. No Planned Action. Danger is that various segments will be used as floor amendments to other bills.

McDonald Amendment Fails: The US Senate completed work on the appropriations bill for the Legal Services Corporation without including an expected anti-gay amendment similar to the one offered in the House of Representatives by Congressman Larry McDonald.

Gay Rights Supporters Blasted: 'New Right' groups have recently taken aim at Congressional supporters of justice for gay people in their direct mail fundraising efforts. The Moral Majority has targeted 'the perverts' who co-sponsored HR 1454. Their obvious goal is to induce 'cold feet' in present and potential gay rights supporters. A number of legislators seem extremely uncomfortable with the significant amount of mail they have received opposing the bill.

We urge you to contact your Representatives and Senators concerning fair employment, civil rights for Lesbians and Gays, and immigration reform.

Access to Federal Courts: As of October, 1981 the House and Senate were considering thirty separate bills to strip the Federal Courts, including the Supreme Court in some instances, of jurisdiction over some cases. School prayer, busing, and abortion are at the top of the list.

These court-stripping bills are a dangerous and far-reaching attack on the role of an independent federal judiciary in protecting constitutional rights. Any special interest group which disagrees with how the Federal courts have interpreted the Constitution would need only find a simple majority in Congress willing to pass legislation curtailing Federal Court jurisdiction in that area.

Contact your Senators and Representatives and urge them to oppose any legislation attacking the independence of the Federal Courts by stripping them of authority to hear particular constitutional cases.

ILLINOIS:

Lambda Resource Center for the Blind: LRC is a self-supporting, voluntary organization affiliated with Gay Horizons, Inc. It is an organization of Lesbian/Gay blind and cooperating sighted readers and supporters. Opportunities for realization of the true self occur through increased sharing of gay and lesbian reading materials and growing emotional support.

Lambda Resource Center for the Blind
3225 N. Sheffield
Chicago, Illinois 60657
(312) 274-0510 (6-10 P.M.)

COLORADO:

Moral Minority-The Real Majority Inc:

"Pulpit tyrants preach the message that anyone who does not agree with their position is anti-family, anti-God, and anti-American." Lorraine Jacques of Denver, Colorado has formed the group to counter Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority. Her ultimate goal is to see people look at religion logically and sensibly.

OKLAHOMA:

Removal of Child in Gay Custody Case: The Oklahoma Supreme Court has upheld a lower court ruling permitting a judge to remove a child from a homosexual parent's custody. In its ruling, the Court relied heavily on testimony from a psychiatrist that a child growing up in such an environment would be confused over whether to accept society's rules or his parents' rules.

FLORIDA:

ERA Message Brigade: We urge our membership to drop a postcard or letter to: Governor Robert Graham, State Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32301; Mr. Ralph Hahn, Jr., Speaker of the House, Room 420C, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32301; and Mr. W. D. Childers, President of the Senate, Suite 409, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32301. Urge them to use their considerable influence to help win passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. What Florida decides about the ERA could determine the direction of women's rights for the next generation. Their support is critical.

NEW YORK:

The American Way: People for the American Way will present "I Love Liberty", an event to be televised live on ABC on George Washington's 250th Birthday--Monday, February 22, 1982.

"I Love Liberty" will be produced by Norman Lear and will feature musical and dramatic material prepared by some of America's most noted writers, composers, and performers. Major entertainers and respected public figures will be appearing on the program.

This national celebration of American freedom will be accompanied by a major citizen outreach that will involve millions of Americans in discussions and creative projects that reaffirm our traditional liberties. It is hoped that this program will encourage people all over the country to speak out about important issues and actively exercise their precious first amendment freedoms everyday in their own communities.